Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SNAR, PE

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SENIOR NARCOTICS ADVISOR

1. MATHEA FALCO, SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE SECRETARY FOR NARCOTICS MATTERS (S/NM), VISITED PERU FROM MAY 19 TO 24 AS PART OF A FACT-FINDING AND ORIENTATION TOUR OF THE COCA/COCAINE PRODUCING COUNTRIES. SHE HAD USEFUL MEETINGS WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PERUVIAN INVESTIGATIONS POLICE (PIP), THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WORKING-LEVEL EXPERTS IN THE COCA/COCAINE FILED. SHE VISITED A PRIMARY COCA PRODUCING AND EXPORTING AREA. MS. FALCO AND THE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED PERUVIAN PARTICIPATION AT THE HONOLULU PSYCHIATRY CONFERENCE.

2. PIP DIRECTOR GENERAL ALFONSO RIVERA SANTANDER GATHERED HIS TOP-LEVEL STAFF AND ANTI-NARCOTICS PERSONNEL FOR THE MEETING WITH MS. FALCO. HE DESCRIBED THE CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S. MISSION (PRIMARILY DEA AND AID) AND HIS ORGANIZATION. DESPITE THESE JOINT EFFORTS HOWEVER, RIVEA SANTANDER POINTED OUT THAT THE DRUG-TRAFFICKING PROBLEM IS GROWING. HE HOPED FOR EARLY APPROVAL OF A NEW PERUVIAN DECREE LAW TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM ON A BROAD FRONT FROM THE ILLEGAL PRODUCTION OF EXCESS COCA, TO TRAFFICKING, TO DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT.

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3. THE AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED MS. FALCO IN HER CALL ON MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR LUIS CISNEROS. IN A LENGTHY INTERVIEW (OTHER ASPECTS OF WHICH REPORTED SEPTEL), CISNEROS INDICATED HIS CONCERN FOR THE DRUG PROBLEM AND HIS BROAD-GAUGED AND HUMANISTIC APPROACH TO LAW ENFORCEMENT. CISNEROS SAID THAT HE HAD DETECTED NO MASTER ORGANIZATION THAT CONTROLS DRUG TRAFFICKING IN PERU,

BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE HUGE PROFITS ATTRACT MANY TRAFFICKERS. THERE HAD ALSO BEEN LINKS BETWEEN THE DRUG AND SUBVERSION PROBLEMS, IN THAT SOME FAR LEFTIST GROUPS WERE FINANCING THEIR FLEDGLING OPERATIONS THROUGH TRAFFICING, BUT THE PERUVIAN AUTHORITIES HAD BROKEN UP ALL SUCH ORGANIZATIONS THEY HAD DISCOVERED SO FAR.

4. AN OVERNIGHT VISIT TO THE TINGO MARIA AREA ENABLED MS. FALCO TO OBSERVE COCA GROWING AND LEARN THE ECONOMICS OF THE "INDUSTRY" FIRST HAND. DISCUSSION WITH COCA GROWERS AND THE OPEATOR OF A LEAF DRYING OPERATION REVEALED THAT IN THE TINGO MARIA AREA THERE ARE SIX COCA HARVESTS PER YEAR, RATHER THAN THREE OR FOUR. LOCAL POLICE OFFICIALS ESTIMATE AS MANY AS 40,000 SMALL ILLICIT COCA PASTE PRODUCTION OPERATIONS IN THE ENVIRONS OF TINGO MARIA

5. UPON MS. FALCO'S RETURN TO LIMA, THE AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED HER TO CALL ON MINISTER OF HEALTH HUMBERTO CAMPODONICO.

CAMPODONICO INDICATED THE GOP IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE COCA/
COCAINE PROBLEM AND WANTS TO ADDRESS IT. A MAJOR COMPLIATION
IS THE LIKELY COST OF ENCOURAGING OR FORCING COCA-GROWING
CAMPESINOS TO PLANT OTHER CROPS OR FIND OTHER EMPLOYMENT. STILL
CAMPODONICO INDICATED THAT THE DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PERUVIAN DRUG
LAW IS FAR ADVANCED, AND THE COMMISSION OF FIVE MINISTERS WHICH
HE CHAIRS HAS DISCUSSED IT IN WORKING SESSION WITH PRESIDENT
MORALES BERMUDEZ. IN RESPONSE TO MS. FALCO'S QUESTION,
CAMPODONICO INDICATED HE THOUGHT THE NEW LAW WOULD BE PROMULGATED
WITHIN TWO MONTHS.

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6. THE AMBASSADOR AND MS. FALCO TOOK THE OCCASION TO SUGGEST TO CAMPODONICO THAT HE NAME A QUALIFIED MEDICAL EXPERT FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH TO ATTEND THE DRUG DEPENDENCY SECTION ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE VI WORLD CONGRESS OF PSYCHIATRY IN HONOLULU FROM AUGUST 28 TO SEPTEMBER 4 (STATE 116854). THEY INDICATED THE U.S. WOULD FUND TRAVEL FOR ONE SUCH EXPERT. CAMPODONICO WAS ENTHUSIASTIC, AND THE EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP AND SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT THE NAME OF THE PROPOSED PARTICIPANT. DEAN

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